

Army Community Service
61 Quebec Street, BLD 683
Fort Devens, MA 01434-4479

Serving the Military in New England

December 2015

DECEMBER 2015

Army Community Service



Fort Devens Welcome Center

61 Quebec Street, Building 683

ACS Hours of Operation

0730-1600 Monday -Friday

<https://www.devens.army.mil>

ACS TELEPHONE NUMBERS

978-796-3023/ 3119 DSN 256-3023/ 3119

MILITARY ONE SOURCE

1-800-342-9647 Available 24/7/365

www.MilitaryOneSource.mil



FROM THE OFFICE OF THE ACS DIRECTOR

The Real Christmas by Howard W. Hunter: “It is a desire to sacrifice for others, to render service and to possess a feeling of universal brotherhood. It consists of a willingness to forget what you have done for others, and to remember what others have done for you; to ignore what the world owes you, and think only of your duties in the middle distance, and your chance to do good and aid your fellow-men in the foreground—to see that your fellow-men are just as good as you are, and try to look behind their faces to their hearts—to close your book of grievances against the universe, and look about you for a place to sow a few seeds of happiness, and go your way unobserved.”

In his contemplation of the Christmas season, John Wallingford penned these lines: “Christmas is not a day or a season, but a condition of heart and mind. If we love our neighbors as ourselves; if in our riches we are poor in spirit and in our poverty we are rich in grace; if our charity vaunteth not itself, but suffereth long and is kind; if when our brother asks for a loaf, we give ourselves instead; if each day dawns in opportunity and sets in achievement, however small; then every day is Christ’s day and Christmas is always near.”

The Meaning of Christmas Today? How is Christmas regarded today? The legend of Santa Claus, the Christmas tree, the decorations of tinsel and mistletoe, and the giving of gifts all express to us the spirit of the day we celebrate; but the true spirit of Christmas lies much deeper than these. It is found in the life of the Savior, in the principles he taught, in his atoning sacrifice—which becomes our great heritage.

FINANCIAL

Eleven (11) Surefire Ways to Waste Money During the Holidays. Like egg nog, credit should only be used in moderation.

- 1. Hosting a holiday feast:** Turn your dinner gathering into a potluck instead. Invite relatives and guests to bring their favorite dishes so the cost of your holiday meal is spread out evenly over everyone who comes to the table.
- 2. Shopping without a strategy:** Your best course of action is to outline a budget and shopping wish list, compare prices, look for discounts or coupons, and adjust your shopping list to fit within your budget. That way, you'll have your finances set, and you'll have a strategy to get exactly what you need at the right time.
- 3. Putting everything on a credit card:** If you don't pay off your balance on time, the penalty interest you'll be hit with will cancel out all your efforts to save money during the Yuletide season. Opt instead for your debit card or cash if you need help staying disciplined.
- 4. Going overboard with Christmas lights:** Try going easy on the lights and opt instead for simple, colorful decorations that can be seen during the daytime and at dusk, such as ribbons, tinsel or an inflatable seasonal character. Combine them with fewer lights for a tasteful, yet affordable, effect.
- 5. Buying gift cards at full price:** Shop smart: Pick up a few gift cards for the price you initially would have spent on one at a retail store.
- 6. Sending too many greeting cards:** That sentiment can diminish, however, when you get cards returned because of a wrong address or when you realize you spent extra cash on fancy cards and

postage for people who don't keep in touch with you. Cut down your list of card recipients to a handful of close loved ones.

7. Buying overpriced wrapping paper: Adorned with a nice bow or ribbon, wrapping paper from a discount store like Dollar Tree is often just as pretty as more expensive paper.

8. Paying full price for a rental car: Book your rental online ahead of time to get the best deal. Once you go to the location to get your car, you might be able to negotiate a great deal on a larger vehicle if the agent is trying to move certain cars off the lot. If you walk in without a reservation, you could get gouged. Get the insurance. Most car insurance policies have a \$500 deductible. If you get into a fender bender in your rental, you'll have to fork over the deductible. It's a lot cheaper to just pay about \$10 per day for the rental company's basic damage waiver insurance

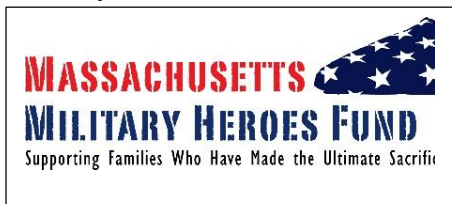
9. Being too charitable: Aim to be more selective in the organizations you give to. Set up a budget for specific donations or for tithing on a year-end bonus and stick to it. The same goes for gratuities: If your standard is 18 percent, and you want to do more for the holidays, be realistic about your budget. Opt for 20 percent or 25 percent if 30 percent will make you broke.

10. Overspending on shipping: If you're purchasing some gifts online, you might pay too much in shipping if you shop too soon. Free Shipping Day, when many retailers offer free shipping on holiday purchases, is Dec. 18. As part of your budgeting and shopping strategy, plan ahead to take advantage of free shipping offers.

11. Splurging on yourself: More than half of all shoppers surveyed by the National Retail Federation plan to splurge on an item for themselves while they're out shopping for others. Dipping into your gift budget to indulge can throw off your spending plan or even cause you to rely on credit cards to finish up your shopping.

SOLDIER AND FAMILY

FREE BRUNCH WITH SANTA: Military Families of troops who are/were deployed in 2015 & Families of fallen/injured Soldiers (as a result of post 9/11/2011 service). Please join us for a FREE Holiday Brunch & Breakfast with Santa. The Charlie Horse Restaurant, W. Bridgewater, MA (just off Rte 24/106). Saturday, December 19th from 9:30am – 12:00pm. Activities for all ages, adults and children. Huge game room, bowling, DJ, face painting, raffles and FUN!! **RSVP by December 1st**. (space is limited). Email names, town, age, and gender of children, troops name, unit and military status to rsvp.jcfund@gmail.com or call Christie Coombs at 781.982.1608 for more information. Hosted by the Jeff Combs Memorial Foundation (jeffcoombsfund.org) with support from:



Not better time than the present to prepare for winter in the car. What do you need? [FEMA](#) has an infographic for that!



Christmas Tree Lighting: The Hanscom Chapel will host the annual base Christmas Tree Lighting tomorrow evening, Dec. 2 at 5 p.m. The event begins with music in the chapel sanctuary, then the arrival of Santa outside and ending in the chapel annex for crafts, cookies and photos with Santa. To learn more about this community event, contact the chapel at 781-225-5501

Worried about your drinking?

Do you think that drinking may be hurting your relationship?

Take part in a treatment research program called Alcohol Behavioral Couple Therapy (ABCT) for Service Member and Veterans

Alcohol, feeling down, pain, trauma, and isolation can impact service members and their families. We offer confidential, free assessment and treatment of drinking and related issues, in outpatient couple sessions. Learn skills to reduce drinking, resolve challenges, and improve your relationship.



What we offer, Free of Charge:

- A confidential assessment session
- 15 weekly couple sessions
- Payment for participation in the intake and follow up research interview

What is necessary to be eligible?

- 18 or older
- Have a drinking habit you want to change
- Served or serving in the U.S. Military (any branch)
- Married, separated, living together, or in a dating relationship

For more information call (855)901-ABCT or visit militarycouplesandalcohol.com



Funded by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism



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Wreaths Across America at Fort Devens Cemetery:

http://give.wreathsacrossamerica.org/site/TR/NationalWreathsAcrossAmericaDay/General?fr_id=4583&pg=entry

Wreaths Across America is a nonprofit organization founded to continue and expand the annual wreath laying ceremony at Arlington National Cemetery and other Military Cemeteries.

This year's ceremony will be held on **Saturday, 12 December, 2015, at 10AM.**

HANSCOM AIRMAN AND FAMILY READINESS CENTER

December 2015

Please Call 781-225-2765 to Register

SOMEONE TO TALK TO when you need it: Military Family Life Counselors (MFLC) provide free, short-term, non-medical, solution-oriented counseling on a range of issues. For service members and their families – no records are kept. Call (781) 879-7654 and leave your first name only for an appointment!

Employee Assistance Program (EAP) provides a confidential, free counseling service on a wide range of personal & work concerns for DoD civilian, NAF & DECA employees as well as their family members. The EAP offers Financial & Legal services as well. Contact Ina Bachman, LICSW, CEAP at 1-800-222-0364 for an appointment & check out the website www.FOH4you.com . ** On site every Monday!!

VA BENEFITS ADVISORS *are available*. Please contact them at 781-225-2624/2625 or 508-847-9985. Located in Bldg 1217.

VETERANS AFFAIRS DISABILITY CLAIMS REVIEW

Fridays (By Appointment Only) A representative from AMVETS, a veterans' service organization, will assist you in processing your disability claim and answer questions. **Appointment is required. Call the AMVETS Service Representative at 617-980-8400.**

PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED. CALL (781) 225-2765 or email us at 66.fss.fsfr.cmb@us.af.mil

Linkendin: The New Path to Employment: Monday, December 1 | 1-4 p.m. Join Susan Joyce, a critically renowned social media author, publisher, President of Job-Hunt.org and WorkCoachCafe.com, as she explains how to safely use social media to develop an online presence to get a job.

How to Cope with the Blues: Wednesday, December 2 | 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Join Hanscom's Military Family Life Counselor at the Airman and Family Readiness Center to learn more about this seasonal phenomenon and what can be done to offset the effects of the changing seasons.

Federal Resume Writing & USAJOBS: Thursday, December 3 | 12:30-4 p.m.

Improve your odds of getting the federal job you want by learning resume writing basics, how to locate essential skills & keywords to include, how to write accomplishment statements, resume builder formats & more.

T & City Orientation: Friday, December 4 | 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Learn how to navigate the local public transportation system. Ride into Boston with us using the "T!" All you need is \$5.30 for subway fares & lunch.

Bundles for Babies: Monday, December 7 | 8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. If you're in your 2nd or 3rd trimester, join us to learn about caring for your newborn, budgeting for baby, TRICARE coverage, dental care, base and community services, SIDS, breastfeeding, car seat safety & more.

Caregiver Peer to Peer Support: Tuesday, December 8 | 1-3 p.m. Community Support Center Bldg.1217 Learn of the issues impacting you day-to-day and what your needs are and connect you with other military caregivers.

Effective Interviewing: Wednesday, December 9 | 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This workshop will discuss preparation, execution and proven strategies for a successful interview. You'll also learn how to be effective in both phone and skype interviews.

Coping with Grief: Thursday, December 10 | 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. This presentation identifies the impact grief has on the holidays healthy coping mechanisms.

Installation Commander's Welcome: Monday, December 14 | 8-11:30 a.m. A&FRC Bldg. 1218 Attention new military personnel and DoD Civilians! Your official introduction to Hanscom AFB features essential base and local community information for new arrivals. Spouses and other service personnel at HAFB strongly encouraged to attend.

· Medical Squadron Welcome: 11:45 a.m First Duty Station Officer's Finance Brief: 2:00 – 3:30 p.m.

Lunch & Learn, Save Energy Save Money: Wednesday, December 16 | 12-12:45 p.m.

Find out how to weatherize your home; identify the 'thermal envelope' and take advantage of state rebates and incentives. Free lunch is provided.

Heart's Apart- Holiday Party: Wednesday, December 16 | 5-7 p.m. Families of deployed, remote tour & extended TDY service members are invited to join us for a festive celebration of the winter holiday season. Please RSVP by Friday, 11 December by calling 781-225-2765 or via e-mail shon.teicheira@us.af.mil.

E-Smooth Move Seminar: Thursday, December 17 | 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Learn how to navigate the new internet-based resources designed for PCS moves and where to get answers to your questions about your upcoming move. Informational handouts will be provided. Bring your smart device and follow along with us on our wifi.

Moving with Child

Thursday, December 17 | 12:15-1 p.m.

Join us for this special presentation immediately following the E-Smooth Move Seminar. We'll discuss tips & techniques to help make moving & adjustment to a new school easier for your children whether it's their first move or their fifteenth.

Relax

Monday, December 21 | 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Learn techniques & experiences to fit in relaxation to your daily schedule.

**Please note that all workshop and class times are subject to change. Please call the Airman & Family Readiness Center at (781) 225-2765 to confirm date/time and to register.*

Monthly Programs

Transition-GPS Workshop Monday-Friday, December 14-18| 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Hanscom Conference Center, Bldg. 1106 All military attendees must have completed DD Form 2648/1 (Preseparation Counseling) prior to the workshop. Mandatory for all service members. Spouses welcome. Assists voluntarily and involuntarily separating, and retiring service members with career and life transition. This five day program consists of a VA benefits briefing, DOL Employment Workshop, modules on financial planning, Military Occupational Code (MOC), Crosswalk, and preparation and review of Individual Transition Plans (ITP). All military attendees must be enrolled in eBenefits.va.gov prior to the workshop. Please bring your own laptop. Pre-registration is required. To register or for more information, please contact the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765.

Weekly Programs

Individual Transition Plan Checklist - Capstone Verification Every Tuesday | 1-2:30 p.m.

Please call the A&FRC at (781) 225-2765 to schedule an appointment with a consultant. All AF service members who completed Preseparation Counseling and TAP/GPS are required to complete DD Form 2958, Service Member's Individual Transition Plan Checklist (referred to as "Capstone"), prior to separation/retirement. This is a mandatory requirement for out-processing.

Preseparation Counseling: Every Wednesday | 9-11 a.m. Weekly sessions for separating and retiring service members to complete the mandatory DD Form 2648, Preseparation Counseling. This counseling MUST be provided at least 90 days prior to date of separation or retirement and is a prerequisite for attending the Transition-GPS Workshop.

Predeployment Briefing: Every Friday | 2-3 p.m. Mandatory for personnel tasked with a TDY/Deployment of 30 days or longer. Spouses are highly encouraged to attend. Briefings are held every Friday at the A&FRC. Please call the A&FRC to sign up.

Family Welcome - Anytime! Stop in after you arrive at Hanscom for a personal welcome to the community and a tour of the A&FRC! Learn what services and information we have for newly arrived service members and families. Children welcome.

Private Sector & Federal Resume Critique - *By “in person” appointment only*

Resumes are reviewed by an employment specialist with HR experience. Receive feedback to improve your format and content. Email your resume to 66.fss.fsfr.cmb@us.af.mil and receive a response within 7 business days. Prior attendance at an A&FRC Resume Writing class is recommended.

Family Advocacy Outreach

CELL PHONE COLLECTION: The Family Advocacy Program collects used and old cell phones, and distributes them to local domestic violence agencies. Drop off phones, batteries, and chargers to the Family Advocacy Program, Bldg 1217. Please put each phone and its accessories in a sealed, plastic bag.

WIC, a nutrition and education program for income-eligible expectant parents or parents with children age birth to five is located on base. * **WIC is located in Bldg 1507** *. **WIC is on base the first and third Wednesday** of each month from 0800 to 1530. For WIC appointments or information, call (617) 312-9974.

First Connections- Is a non-profit, family support organization that provides comprehensive services to families with young children birth through age five. First Connections serves a large geographic area that encompasses twelve metro-west communities, including Hanscom Air Force Base. All programs are free or low cost. More information is available on their website www.firstconnections.org or by calling 781-287-0221.

EMPLOYMENT READINESS

Hire Veterans First is a listing of jobs for veterans and a resume posting service - including a focused list of jobs recruiting wounded warriors. www.hireveteransfirst.com Any participation is solely the responsibility of the individual.”

From Army Times on Web: This new eBenefits feature incorporates numerous tools and resources for job seekers, as well as employers who want high quality applicants. Veterans, service members and their spouses or dependents, who are looking for work, transitioning out of the military or changing careers are encouraged to utilize the Veterans Employment Center. Users can access the Skills Translator function to translate military terms to civilian skills or just go right to the Resume Builder tool. Resumes created on the site will be available to private and public sector employers who specifically want to hire veterans. Veterans Employment Center is found at

<http://www.ebenefits.va.gov>.

eBenefits Fact Sheet http://www.nvti.ucdenver.edu/home/buzz_xtra/eBenefits_factsheet.pdf

LENDING LIBRARY: The ERRC offers a large selection of library resources including books, CDs and DVDs. Employment topics include resume writing, interviewing skills and applying for federal jobs. Relocation topics include moving overseas, moving with children, and having fun in New England - family and pet-friendly activities. Other printed resources include atlases, fliers, and magazines.

HOT JOB BOARD, JOB LISTINGS AND OTHER RESOURCES: The Hot Jobs Board is updated on a daily basis and includes up to the moment federal, contractor, AFFES and NAF positions located in and around Hanscom. Listed Jobs are filed by sector and searchable by date. Other posted notices include local area job fairs, job fair guidance and six-month job search instruction schedule.

The advertisement features the United States Postal Service logo at the top left. To the right of the logo are two photographs: one of a postal worker in a blue uniform reaching into a mail slot, and another of a worker pushing a mail cart. Below the logo, the text reads "NOW HIRING" in large red letters, followed by "Boston, we need you to deliver for us!" in blue. At the bottom left, it says "Hiring opportunities are posted weekly for post offices near you." in red. The right side of the ad is a blue box with white text. It is titled "CITY LETTER CARRIERS (CCA)" and lists positions available throughout Greater Boston. It includes details about salary (\$15.68 per hour), health benefits, and career opportunities. It also states that applicants must pass Postal Service examinations and have a valid state driver's license. The application process is outlined, including the website www.usps.com/employment and the email GREATERBOSTONHIRING@USPS.GOV. It concludes with the statement "We are an Equal Opportunity Employer."

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE®

NOW HIRING
Boston, we need
you to deliver for us!

*Hiring opportunities are posted
weekly for post offices near you.*

CITY LETTER CARRIERS (CCA)
Positions available throughout Greater Boston and surrounding areas to collect and deliver mail.

- Salary \$15.68 per hour / Health Benefits Available
- Exciting Career Opportunities

*Applicants must pass Postal Service Examinations and must be able to work weekends and/or other days as needed.
Must have a valid state driver's license (at least two years).*

APPLY AT: www.usps.com/employment
Select "Search Jobs & Apply online"

- Create Profile, Search for Jobs, and APPLY (Follow instructions in job posting)
- Search for jobs by location: Massachusetts

All correspondence for assessments, testing, interviews, etc. will be sent via e-mail. Check daily.

Send Inquiries to: GREATERBOSTONHIRING@USPS.GOV
We are an Equal Opportunity Employer.

Free Vocational Training for Veterans: The Veterans Training School (VTS) is recruiting unemployed and under-employed Veterans for the following vocational free vocational programs: Apply today! Email Andrew Moyseowicz or call 617-371—1810. Find more online at www.nechv.org

Career Opportunities: An update that we now have a "Career Opportunities" link on our website which will have all the information regarding our current job opening, description, and how to apply... <http://www.veteransinc.org/about-us/career-opportunities/>

THE FEDERAL RESUME DATABASE

SUCCESSFUL FEDERAL RESUME SAMPLES FROM 6 POPULAR FEDERAL RESUME BOOKS BY KATHRYN TROUTMAN



*150 Samples of Samples of Military Transition, Military Spouse,
Student Veteran, and Government Federal Employee Federal Resumes
From Current Titles and CD-ROMs by Kathryn Troutman*



<http://www.resume-place.com/imcomacs>

Username: IMCOMACS

Password: getajob

The Resume Place, Inc. -- www.resume-place.com -- (888) 480-8265

The Federal Resume Database:

USA JOB: JOB OPPORTUNITIES ON THE BASE - Remember to go to www.USAJOBS.GOV and search for Newport, RI if you are interested in finding out and applying for positions open onboard the Naval Station. Current opportunities include a Motor Vehicle Operator that's open through next week. Spread the word! USAJOBS - The Federal Government's Official Jobs Site www.USAJOBS.GOV This is a United States Office of Personnel Management website. USAJOBS is the Federal Government's official one-stop source for Federal jobs and employment information.

Job Search: Below please find a link to critical skills needed at Booz Allen Hamilton. Please share with your contacts and have all interested email me their resumes and I will submit on their behalf – this speeds up the review process. Also, applicants must identify the job skills qualification from the list. <https://erp.bah.com/hotjobs.htm>

Website: Career Resources for Veterans: The Defense Centers of Excellence (DCoE) recently collaborated with PBS to produce a handbook for military families. Created as a companion to the PBS series "This Emotional Life," A Handbook for Family & Friends of Service Members explores the stressors and feelings individuals may encounter throughout the different phases of deployment. The handbook aims to provide solutions for Service members and identifies outside tools and resources that may be useful to friends and family members before, during and after deployment. Topics include what to expect during deployment and how to strengthen or repair relationships. Order the handbooks from the Real Warriors Campaign website at <http://www.sc.edu/career/Webresources/veterans.html>

<http://www.realwarriors.net/materials/order>

Hanscom AFS: Resources <http://www.hanscom.af.mil>

Massachusetts Career Information System: <http://masscis.intocareers.org/default.asp>

Veterans Employment Services (978) 534-1481 x 117 www.wmoore@detma.org

Orion International: info@orioninternational.com

RELOCATION READINESS

ACS has listings for apartments or houses to rent. List is updated as housing is made available to us. Call 978-796-3023. ACS Electronic Welcome Packets
<https://www.devens.army.mil>

Moving and Relocation Information: Terrific tips to make moving easier. Plan my Move at
<http://www.militaryinstallations.dod.mil/MOS/f?p=MI:ENTRY:0>

TRICARE Information at Hanscom AFB: Hanscom AFB offers a monthly Newcomer Orientation Medical Clinic welcome to all new patients every Tuesday from 1300 to 1500. It is strongly recommended that Army personnel attend so they can find out about their provider, how to access emergency services, and referral. Telephone: 781-377-2120

FORT DEVENS SERVICES:

Fort Devens Mail and Distribution: Mail & Distribution Hours are as follows. The Door will be open for box pick up between the following hours. 0730 AM to 1600 PM. Window pick up 0900 AM to 1200 PM 1230 PM to 1430 PM

Education Office: The 99th RSC Education Office is located at 30 Quebec Street, (Building 666) Fort Devens, in Rooms 328, 326, and 324. Call 978-796-2968. Services include educational and career counseling, GI Bill questions and issues, tuition assistance, financial aid and scholarship information as well as test administration and test proctoring.

Police Services Division: Fingerprinting 0930-1030 / 1500-1600 or By Appointment.

Police: 978-796-3333

Physical Security: 978-796-2061

Carlson Wagonlit Travel/Veterans Travel: 800-945-0535 or 402-345-7596

Devens Legal: 978-796-2255

Education Office: 978-796-2331

AAFES / Clothing & Sales: 978-772-6838 / 2065

Photo Section DA Photo: 978-796-2559

Fort Devens ID Cards 978 -796-2130, Building 683

Billeting: Bldg. 978-796-3201

Distance Learning Center: 978-796-3612 / 2605 / 2626

Transportation: Passenger 978-796-2141/ or 2393 Freight 978-796-2832/ or 2840

Vehicles: 978-796-2141

MASSACHUSETTS RESOURCES:

USO New England: <http://www.uso-newengland.org/index.htm>

Massachusetts Parks: www.state.ma.us/dem/forparks.htm

Massachusetts Wildlife: www.state.ma.us/dfwele/dfw

State of Massachusetts Child Care Finder: www.qualitychildcare.org

Massachusetts Getaway Guide: <http://www.mass-vacation.com/>
Massachusetts's area Guides net: <http://massachusetts.ag.s.myareaguide.com/>
Boston and Local Area Concerts: <http://www.bostonconcerts.com/>

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